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IAC-D-55/12.3  
First Draft

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

13 August 1957

82

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Report to the National Security Council on  
the Status of the Foreign Intelligence Program

Reference: IAC-D-55/11, (Final) 14 August 1956

1. The first draft of the annual report to NSC on the status of the Foreign intelligence program is forwarded herewith for review. It is anticipated that a proposed section on the Clandestine Collection program will be available for distribution following further internal CIA clearances. We expect to add an Annex on NSCID's relevant to the activities discussed, similar to Annex A of last year's report, and to prepare a summary following coordination of this report.

2. Because of an NSC deadline of 1 September, we should endeavor to clear this paper through the IAC on 27 August. Consequently, we request you to send representatives for a coordination meeting on Wednesday, 21 August at 10:00 a.m. in Room 115 Administration Building. Since we plan to begin by considering Section A (Warning of Attack) and Section B (Evaluation and Estimates), it will probably not be necessary for those representatives whose contributions fall exclusively within Section C (Collection) to be present at the initial session. If those representatives who are solely concerned with Section C will give the IAC Secretariat  their name and telephone number, we can advise them when we expect Section C to be discussed.

Secretary  
IAC

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Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

TOP SECRET

IAC-D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

6. The Arab-Israeli Situation

The Ad Hoc IAC Working Group on the Arab-Israeli Situation, which was set up in March 1956, assisted in meeting the increased intelligence requirements arising from the Middle Eastern crisis. The Group, whose work supplemented that of the Watch Committee and the individual IAC agencies, issued four complete revisions of its basic report during the past year. These reports, which are kept current in the periods between formal revisions, contain statements on the political and military situation and also include maps and charts with military statistics.

7. "Crisis Situation" Review by IAC

Under a procedure initiated in the past year, the IAC at its weekly meetings regularly reviews as a body intelligence and information bearing on actual or potential "crisis situations" anywhere in the world. This has proved to be a valuable stimulant for the regular exchange of views, at the highest level in the intelligence community, on matters of both immediate and long-range intelligence interest. The new procedure has also assisted in scheduling estimates, and has provided a mechanism for inspiring suggestions and crystallizing the community viewpoint with respect to matters on which the Director of Central Intelligence may brief the National Security Council.

TOP SECRET

IAC-D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

B. Evaluation and Estimates

1. National Intelligence Estimates (NIE's)

a. Production of NIE's continued to be guided largely by the needs of the NSC and related bodies. Of the 57 NIE's published during the last year, 35 were related to specific NSC papers or policy actions.

b. The IAC continued to provide estimates in support of the reports to the NSC on the "net evaluation" of the capabilities of the USSR to inflict direct injury on the continental US. The main estimates for the 1956 report, keyed to the focal period of mid-1959, were NIE 11-56, "Soviet Gross Capabilities for Attack on the US and Key Overseas Installations and Forces Through Mid-1959" and NIE 11-2-56, "The Soviet Atomic Energy Program". The 1956 report was also supported by NIE 11-4-56, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action Through 1961". Estimative support for the net evaluation to be submitted in late 1957, will include SNIE 11-6-57, "Soviet Gross Capabilities for Attack on the Continental US in Mid-1960", NIE 11-5-57, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Guided Missile Field," and NIE 11-2-57, "The Soviet Atomic Energy Program".

- 7 -

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

IACD-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

c. The work of the Special Assistant to the President for Disarmament was supported by NIE 11-6-57, "Nuclear Weapons Production in Fourth Countries -- Likelihood and Consequences".

d. The post-mortem procedure on NIE's continues to be a valuable method of highlighting intelligence gaps and providing guidance for future intelligence collection. Pursuant to the recommendation of the post-mortem on NIE 11-5-57, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Guided Missile Field," for example, the IAC established an "Ad Hoc Weapons System Study Committee". This Committee proposes to study and recommend methods for evaluating the comparative performances of competing weapons systems, in order to assist in the formulation of national estimates on Soviet military programs.

## 2. National Intelligence Surveys (NIS)

a. During the year NIS production essentially fulfilled the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) annual production requirement, and brought the total of the NIS production thus far to over 3,700 sections. This represents more than 65 percent of the total world coverage, and on the JCS high priority areas coverage is now over 90 percent complete. Nearly one-third of the production effort during the year was directed towards maintenance revision of published NIS sections.

- 8 -

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

IAC-D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

b. A major accomplishment this year has been the comprehensive revision of the NIS Standard Instructions, and the development of the NIS Reference Guide to provide for a better understanding and more effective use of the NIS among the growing body of NIS recipients. Other noteworthy activities during the year included the production of the NIS on the Arctic two years ahead of schedule, the attainment of world-wide NIS Gazetteer coverage on all foreign areas, and the development by the Defense Agencies of formal NIS Control and Coordination Directives.

c. In summary, this has been a year of solid accomplishment, characterized by excellent interagency support and coordination, and reflecting a gradual improvement in collection guidance and acquisition, better administrative controls, and more efficient interagency procedures.

d. With the continuation of present production capabilities it is anticipated that the NIS program will meet the JCS annual requirement for the next three years. This should result in 85 percent to 90 percent coverage of world areas by 30 June 1960, and the revision of one-third of all published NIS under the maintenance program.

### 3. Military Intelligence

a. Military intelligence information on the Sino-Soviet Bloc is adequate to support broad assessments of the current capabilities

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Next 17 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

TOP SECRET

IAC D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

C. Collection

1. Priority National Intelligence Directives

In accordance with NSCID No. 4 the list of priority national intelligence objectives was again revised (DCID 4/6). First Priority Objectives continued to emphasize Sino-Soviet Strategy, intentions or plans related to the initiation of hostilities. The highest priority was also assigned to Soviet capabilities for nuclear attack, defense against air (including missiles) attack, and the clandestine delivery of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons against the US or key US overseas installations. These lists of priority objectives provide the basic guidance for reappraising collection requirements and planning intelligence production throughout the intelligence community. They have also furnished a

- 26 -

TOP SECRET



25X1

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

Next 13 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

TOP SECRET

IAC D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

7. The Foreign Language Publication Program

The increase in availability of Soviet Bloc publications, previously prohibited for export, has continued. One of the highlights of the period was the increase in military information included in Soviet and Satellite periodicals, with Polish periodicals proving to be a particularly fruitful source of data on Soviet material. The Soviets have expanded the publication and release of statistical handbooks containing factual data on whole segments of their economic development, and there appears to be a cumulative relaxation on the release of Soviet Bloc published source materials containing valuable information for intelligence purposes. Scientific and technical open-source foreign literature has proved valuable as a source of information for estimating foreign research and development capabilities and reducing the chance of technological surprise. In order to insure the proper exploitation of this increased volume for the intelligence community, steps have been taken

- 40 -

TOP SECRET

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Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

TOP SECRET

IAC-D-55/12.3  
First Draft  
13 August 1957

11. Foreign Radio and Television Broadcasts



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b. Television monitoring is expected to increase in importance with the multiplying of foreign stations and the improvement in technical facilities. CIA and the Air Force are experimenting with recording and photographic equipment for the monitoring of telecasts.

c. Arrangements are in progress between CIA and the Army for the allocation of exclusive communications channels to CIA which will greatly accelerate the transmission of monitored information from overseas bureaus. It is expected that these arrangements will relieve the Signal Corps of a substantial burden of multiple handling of traffic from the field.

- 47 -

TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300010013-9

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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V.R.

IAC-D-55/12

10 July 1957

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR : The Intelligence Advisory Committee  
The Chairmen, IAC Subcommittees

SUBJECT : Annual Report to the NSC on the Status  
of the Foreign Intelligence Program

REFERENCES : IAC-D-55/11 (Final), 18 August 1956  
IAC-D-55/11, 22 June 1956 (with Attachment)

1. We have been advised informally that, as in the past few years, the intelligence community will be required to submit to the NSC a coordinated report on the status of the foreign intelligence program for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1957. It is our understanding also that the deadline for submission of this report will be 15 August.

2. As far as we have been able to determine, it is expected that the substantive content of the report will be roughly analogous to the basic paper submitted last year. However, there probably will be no similar requirement for a 3-year fiscal projection or a progress report on action taken with respect to the recommendations of the Technological Capabilities Panel of the Science Advisory Committee.

3. If, as it appears, the 15 August deadline is firm, this report will have to be prepared and coordinated on a very tight schedule. It is for this reason that we are alerting agencies and subcommittees to this anticipated requirement in advance of the receipt of any formal notification from the NSC. Pending receipt of the formal request from the NSC it is therefore hoped that the agencies and subcommittees will begin preparation of contributions along the lines of those submitted last year, taking into account major developments in their respective fields during the past fiscal year. The over-all coordination process will, of course, be


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IAC-D-55/12  
10 July 1957

greatly facilitated if the contributions by the IAC subcommittees are coordinated through those committees prior to their submission to the IAC Secretariat.

4. As soon as the formal request from the NSC becomes available we shall circulate it and schedule a preliminary meeting to discuss the guidelines set forth in the communication and outline more precisely the procedures to be followed in preparing and coordinating this report.



Secretary

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